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ABSTRACT

In a question-and-answer format, the guide responds to common queries about bilingualism in children. The first section poses and answers questions about family issues and bilingualism, including family communication, support of language development, cultural and social context for language development, social integration, and parent language learning. The second section focuses on more specific language development issues such as language dominance and fluency, intelligence and achievement, multilingualism, variability related to age and gender, language attitudes, code-switching and translation, educational strategies, and employment prospects for bilinguals. Concerns about problems and disadvantages of bilingualism are addressed in the third section, including language mixing, behavioral and developmental problems, prejudice, and language choice. Section 4 is devoted to questions about reading and writing instruction and support for literacy development. A wide variety of education-related questions are answered in the fifth section. These concern basic education issues, bilingual education, academic achievement and underachievement, and language use in the classroom. The concluding section contains miscellaneous questions and answers. A glossary and index are included. (MSE)

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